

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

## REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 20 May 1955

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NO. OF ENCLS.  
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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO. 25X1

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Approved For Release 2008/10/03 : CIA-RDP80-00810A006700750002-7

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1. Comment. [redacted] it was reported that Selbmann was [redacted] natural rubber with "capitalist" countries.

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2. Comment: [redacted] it is rumored that the Ministry of Machine Construction will be moved to Strausberg.

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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

## REPORT

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# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

Paul Gervais

SUBJECT

Ministry for Heavy Industry: Imports:  
Relocation Ministry:

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE  
ACQUIREDNO OF ENCLS.  
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1. Plans of the East German Ministry for Heavy Industry for importing petroleum (Erdoel) from the Soviet Union have fallen through for 1955. The Ministry now expects to obtain the necessary imports from Rumania although the Rumanian petroleum price is higher than that of the Soviet Union.

2. A contract for the importation of natural rubber, concluded between East Germany and an unspecified "capitalist" country, was cancelled by the latter. The loss of these imports is considered a serious blow to the East German economy since: a) the shortage of natural rubber has already forced a reduction of from 20 to 6% in the minimum natural rubber requirement for tires, and b) the foam rubber program is affected since East Germany depends on foam rubber for shoe soles in view of the shortage of shoe sole leather. With the personal authorization of Minister President Grotewohl for the step, Minister for Heavy Industry Fritz Selbmann concluded an illegal compensation agreement for the import of natural rubber.

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3. [ ] firms have cancelled deliveries of 44,000 tons of rolling-mill products to East Germany for the first quarter of 1955. This material is urgently needed in various parts of the machine construction field. The amount is now expected to be delivered in the second quarter of 1955.

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4. Selbmann reportedly said at a Ministry Party meeting that it was better for the Ministry to move to Karlshorst than to Potsdam or to Strausberg (a suburb north of Berlin). He also mentioned that the space in the Karlshorst compound had been first offered to Minister for Machine Construction Heinrich Kau, who refused to move there.

5. Considerable building activity has taken place in the last year in and around Strausberg. It is believed in some quarters that this area will be a central administration area for the Ministry for the Interior and, probably, the State Secretariat for State Security. 2

6. The building at 165 Friedrichstrasse, formerly occupied by the office of State Secretary Richard Goschuetz of the Ministry for Heavy Industry, will be taken over by the Transport Police. The building can house 180 to 200 employees.

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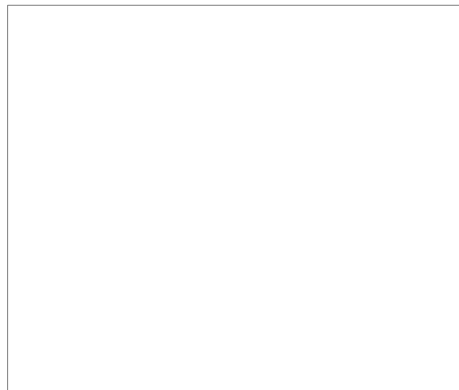
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